

Si-chi-to. Lat. $28^{\circ} 30'$ N. Long. $98^{\circ} 15'$ E. Flowers white flushed rose, deep rose in bud with a few crimson markings and a blotch. Shrub of 4–5 ft. In cane brakes in side valleys. June, 1922." G. Forrest No. 21877.

"S.E. Tibet. Tsarong: Duplicate in fruit of No. 21877. October, 1922." G. Forrest No. 22895.

While this is undoubtedly of the alliance of *Rh. rhaibocarpum* and *Rh. dasycladum* it shows so distinct an indumentum that it is quite an exceptional member of the Thomsonii Series in that respect. Its evident kinship, however, with the species named warrants its inclusion in the alliance suggested in spite of this very aberrant character.

A New Rhododendron of the Glaucum Series.

BY

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Rhododendron micromeres, Tagg, sp. nov.

Species sectionis Glauci, ex affinitate *Rh. Genestieriana*, Forrest a quo floris colore viridi-flavo inter alia differt.

Planta 1–2 m. alta fere epiphytica atque subpendula. Folia petiolo circ. 5–8 mm. longo dense lepidoto suffulta; lamina oblonga vel elliptica, 3–7 cm. longa, 1.5–3 cm. lata, apice obtusa, mucronulata, basi obtusa vel cuneata, supra laete virens, squamis flavidis distantibus lepidota, infra glauco-cinerea, squamis inter se spatium diametro paulo majus distantibus conspersa, venis utrinque circ. 10 obscuris. Inflorescentia umbellata 3–7-flora, rhachi 5–7 mm. longa lepidota atque plus minusve albo-villosula, pedicellis gracilibus 2–3 cm. longis lepidotis in fructu valde elongatis. Calyx 2–4 mm. longus, undulato-lobatus. Corolla rotato-campanulata, viridi-flava, extra lepidota, circ. 1.4 cm. longa, tubo 4 mm. longo, lobis late rotundatis circ. 1 cm. longis, 5–7 mm. latis late patentibus. Stamina 10, subaequalia, 5–8 mm. longa, filamentis longioribus fere glabris, brevioribus dense villosis. Gynaeceum 6–8 mm. longum, ovario 2.5–4 mm. longo dense lepidoto, stylo tantum 5 mm. longo valde curvato. Capsula circ. 1.5 cm. longa, 4–5 mm. lata, pedicellis ad 5.5 cm. elongatis, calyce persistente cincta.

"S.E. TIBET, Tsarong. Salween—Kiu chiang divide, west of Si-K'ai. Lat. $27^{\circ} 48'$ N. Long. $98^{\circ} 33'$ E. Alt. 9–10,000 ft. On trees

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in mixed forests in side valleys. Epiphytic shrub of 3 ft. Foliage only. Stems tough, semi-pendulous. June, 1922." G. Forrest No. 21811.

"S.E. Tibet, Tsarong. Duplicate of Forrest No. 21811 in fruit. October, 1922." G. Forrest No. 22856.

"S.E. Tibet. Mount Kenyichunpo and region of Champutong, Salween—Irrawadi watershed. 1923." J. F. Rock No. 10223.

"S.E. Tibet. Mount Kenyichunpo and region of Champutong, Salween—Irrawadi watershed. 1923." J. F. Rock No. 11167.

"S.E. Tibet, Pemako. Alt. 8–9,000 ft. In fruit. Epiphytic on big mossy tree trunks in the upper rain forest. A small straggling untidy shrub. Lower leaf surface with close set golden scales. Upper surface polished with a few widely scattered scales. Truss with up to 5 flowers on 1 inch pedicels. Calyx small. Fruit narrow, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, lepidote, red when ripe. Style short hooked. 24/10/24." K. Ward No. 6251.

(I include the above number with the caveat that the only Ward gathering I have seen of this number is without flower or fruit and the leaves are smaller than those of Forrest's plants. On the other hand the plants under the Ward No. 6251, raised at Bulstrode Gardens agree well with the Forrest number 25588 in bud and the Rock number 10223 in open flower.)

"N.W. YUNNAN. Salween—Kiu chiang divide. Lat. $27^{\circ} 5'$ N. Long. $98^{\circ} 35'$ E. Alt. 11,000 ft. On forest trees and rocks. Epiphytic shrub of 3 ft. Flowers yellow. July, 1924." G. Forrest No. 25588.

"N.W. Yunnan. Salween—Kiu chiang divide. Lat. $27^{\circ} 5'$ N. Long. $98^{\circ} 35'$ E. Alt. 11,000 ft. On forest trees and on rocks. Epiphytic shrub of 3 ft. Flowers yellow. July, 1924." G. Forrest No. 25612.

"N.W. Yunnan. Duplicate of Forrest Nos. 25612 and 25588. Same locality and altitude. October, 1924." G. Forrest No. 25779.

"N.W. Yunnan. Mount Chi-Ch'a or Gitsa Ngulu, west of the Mekong and north of Wei-Hsi. 1928." J. F. Rock No. 17054.

"N.W. Yunnan. Mount Gitsa, west of the Mekong and north of Wei-Hsi. Sept.-Oct. 1929." J. F. Rock No. 18475.

"N.E. UPPER BURMA. Hills west of Tzi-tzo-ti. Lat. $25^{\circ} 58'$ N. Long. $98^{\circ} 29'$ E. Alt. 8–9,000 ft. On ledges of cliffs in side valleys. Shrub of 4–6 ft. Flowers? May, 1925." G. Forrest No. 26636.

"N.E. Upper Burma. Duplicate of Forrest No. 26636. Nov. 1925." G. Forrest No. 27686.

"North Burma, Seinghku Wang, Advance Base. Lat. $28^{\circ} 8'$ N. Long. $97^{\circ} 25'$ E. Alt. 9–10,000 ft. Flowers pale yellow in loose trusses of 3–6 flowers. Anthers chocolate; filaments very hairy at the base. Calyx leafy, green, spreading, persistent lepidote on the outside, the

margin beaded. Corolla regular, glistening, the veins showing through delicately; pubescent at the base inside. Ovary densely lepidote; style glabrous, bent. Epiphytic in the upper forest. 5/6/26." K. Ward No. 6848.

"ASSAM. Delei Valley. Lat. $28^{\circ} 20'$ N. Long. $96^{\circ} 37'$ E. Alt. 8–9,000 ft. In bud and in fruit. Leaves closely lepidote below. An epiphyte of the upper forest (Rhododendron Tsuga forest) where it grows as a small spreading shrub. See No. 8326. 6/5/28." K. Ward No. 8169.

"Assam. Delei Valley. Lat. $28^{\circ} 21'$ N. Long. $96^{\circ} 37'$ E. Alt. 8–10,000 ft. A small shrub generally epiphytic, sometimes growing on rocks in the forest. Flowers just opening, the upper lobes with an outbreak of orange-coloured swellings on either side like spots, but the tissue is actually raised. Anthers red-brown. Pedicels reddened. Truss about 5–7-flowered. Leaves closely lepidote below. One of the commonest epiphytic species in the mixed rain forest. 14/6/28." K. Ward No. 8326.

Habit. A somewhat straggling pendulous epiphytic shrub of 3–6 ft.

Leaves. Lamina oblong or elliptic, 3–7 cm. long, 1.5–3 cm. broad; apex obtuse, mucronulate; base obtuse to cuneate; margin cartilaginous, not hairy; upper surface bright green, slightly rugulose, lepidote with yellowish scales several times their own diameter apart; midrib deeply sunk, primary lateral veins about 10 on each side; under surface glaucous grey (in dried specimens often mottled brownish) punctulate with scales a little more than their own diameter apart, varying much in size and deeply sunk in pits in the epidermis, epidermis distinctly papillate with wax-clad papillae, midrib prominent, veins indistinct. Petiole about 5–8 mm. long, grooved above, rounded below, densely lepidote.

Inflorescence. A terminal umbel of 3–7 small dangling or nodding yellow bells, the terminal umbel sometimes supported immediately below by one or more lateral umbels which have fewer flowers; terminal rhachis 5–7 mm. long, lepidote and more or less hairy with short white hairs, lateral rhachises somewhat shorter; bracts spathulate, about 8 mm. long, pinkish sparsely lepidote and fringed at margin with short white hairs.

Pedicels thin, flexuous, about 2–3 cm. long, more or less tinted purple, clad with whitish or golden scales, more or less pubescent, lengthening considerably in the fruiting stage.

Calyx distinct, 2–4 mm. long, greenish tinted reddish at margin, undulate, 5-lobed; lobes broadly rounded, often reflexed, greenish, lepidote on the back with the margin elepidote.

Corolla small, when fully open rotately campanulate, greenish-yellow, lepidote outside on tube and lobes, glabrous inside; tube short and broad, about 4 mm. long; lobes 5, 1–1.4 cm. long, broadly

rounded, about 1 cm. long, 5–7 mm. broad, reflexed giving a rotate face to corolla.

Disc greenish, puberulous.

Stamens 10, subequal, 5–8 mm. long; filaments white thickened towards the base, shorter filaments densely hairy over the whole or two thirds of length, longer filaments almost glabrous; anthers ochre-coloured or pale brown, nearly 1 mm. long.

Pistil about 6–8 mm. long; ovary short, conoid, ribbed, 2.5–4 mm. long, densely clad with whitish glistening scales; style very short, about 5 mm. long, often lepidote at the base, abruptly curved, thickened to the truncate stigma which is about 1.5 mm. across and pinkish.

Capsule about 1.5 cm. long, 4–5 mm. broad, borne upon thin stalks as much as 5.5 cm. long, supported at the base by the persistent calyx, dehiscing from the apex into 5 narrow valves, verruculose with the dried ovarian scales.

Habitat. This very remarkable rhododendron was first found by Mr. George Forrest in 1922 on the Salween-Kiu chiang divide. These gatherings were in foliage and fruit only. Forrest gathered it again in 1924 with flower buds. Again in 1925 it was gathered by him in foliage. Rock gathered it in 1923 in fruit and fading flowers and in the same year in flower and fruit. Kingdom Ward collected it (or a form of it) in 1924 at Pemako during his exploration of the Tsangpo Gorge. From Ward's seed (Ward 6251) plants agreeing with Forrest's and Rock's gatherings have flowered at Bulstrode Gardens, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks, and the flower characters given above are based largely upon cultivated plants raised from Ward's seed and sent to Edinburgh by Sir. John Ramsden.

Rh. micromeres in the leaf shape, the papillate undersurface and the type of lepidotenes of the leaf undersurface is closely akin to *Rh. Genestierianum*. The flower characters also suggest affinity with *Rh. Genestierianum*. From that species it differs chiefly in the colour of the corolla. A characteristic feature of the plant in fruit is the long pendulous fruit stalks in contrast with the relatively short pedicels of the flower.